

2019

## The Policy Environment for Nebraska

John R. Bartle

Josie Gatti Schafer

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/cparpresentations>



Part of the [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#), and the [Public Affairs Commons](#)

# The Policy Environment for Nebraska



## CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

John Bartle, Ph.D. Dean,  
College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Josie Schafer, Ph.D., Director  
[jgschafer@unomaha.edu](mailto:jgschafer@unomaha.edu)  
[cpar.unomaha.edu/policy](http://cpar.unomaha.edu/policy)



@UNOmahacpar  
#Nebraskabythenumbers



@unocpar

# Mission Statement of Nebraska Planning Committee

The planning committee of the Legislature is charged with establishing and maintaining a future focus on the priorities of the state. **Its responsibility is to assure continuity of policy to achieve long term goals.** The committee will do so by:

- collecting and analyzing data about Nebraska, including, but not limited to, demographics, workforce, education, wages, wealth, tax structure, revenue, natural resources, assets, challenges, trends, and growth and efficiency of government;
- identifying long-term issues significant to the state;
- setting goals and benchmarks;
- issuing a yearly report of the committee's findings; and
- proposing legislation.

# Please visit

[Cpar.unomaha.edu/policy](http://Cpar.unomaha.edu/policy)

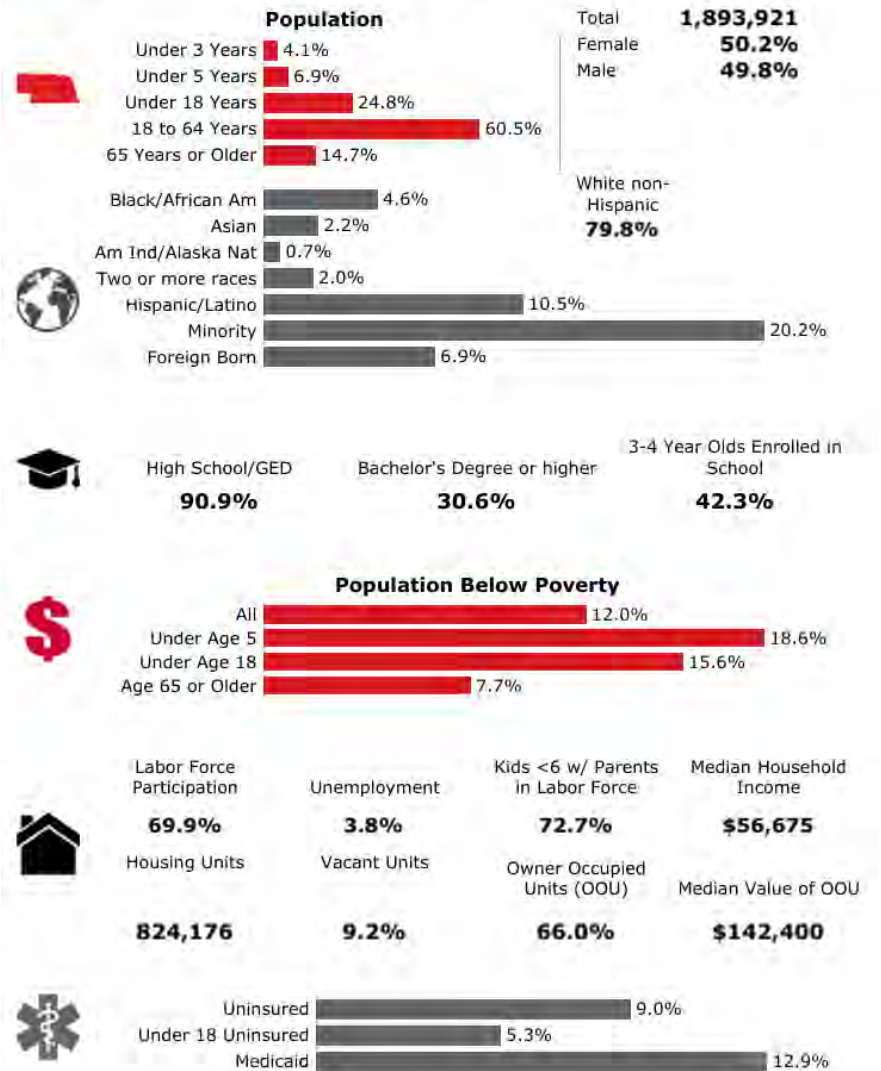
to access Nebraska  
Legislative Districts by the  
Numbers

and over 30 policy briefs  
in 9 different topic areas

## 2017 Quick Facts for Nebraska

Geography  
Nebraska

Period  
2017



University of  
Nebraska  
Omaha



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates | Prepared by the University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Public Affairs Research | Best viewed and printed from non-mobile version.



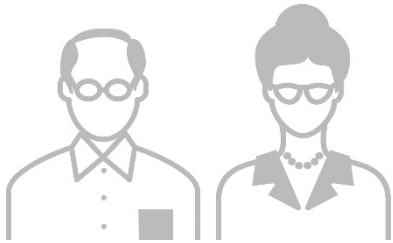
## Population

58% of Senators  
Said Topic was Extremely  
Important or Important



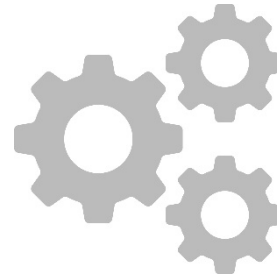
## Education

76% of Senators  
Said Topic was Extremely  
Important or Important



## Aging

76% of Senators  
Said Topic was Extremely  
Important or Important



## Workforce

82% of Senators  
Said Topic was Extremely  
Important or Important



## Diversity & Demographics

60% of Senators  
Said Topic was Extremely  
Important or Important

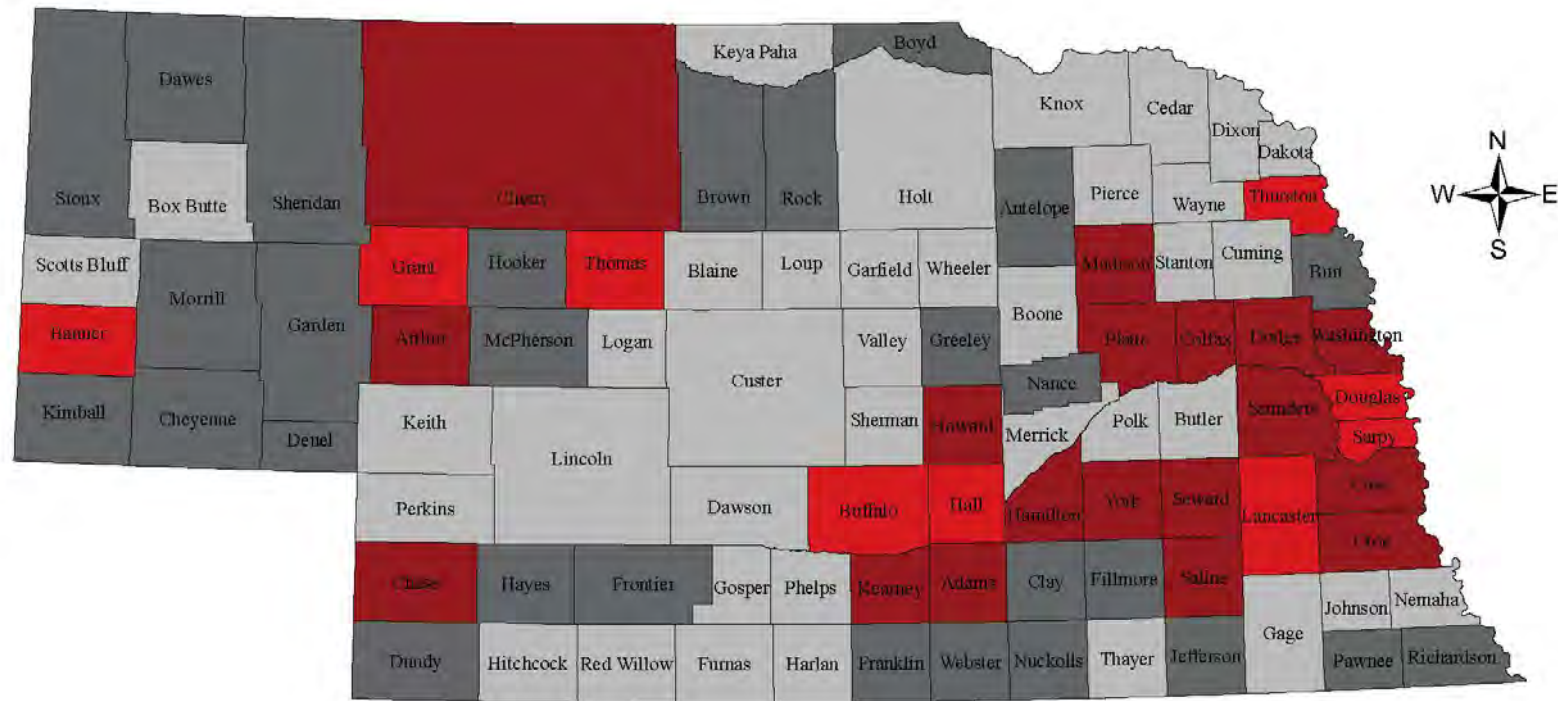


## Public Safety

\* Not surveyed

# Since 2010, Nebraska's population has increased about 5% but 66 counties have lost population

*Percent change in population 2010 - 2018*

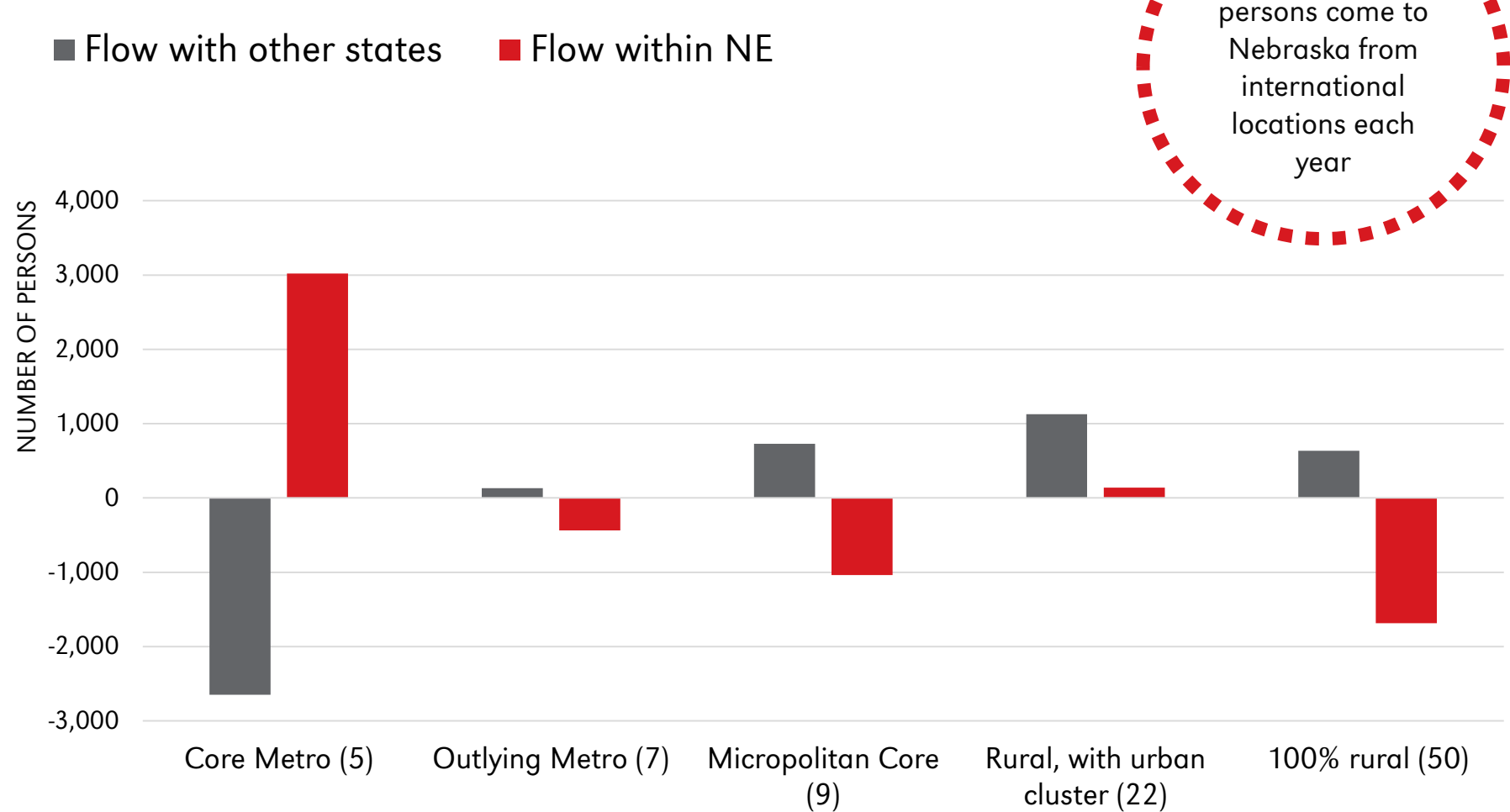


**Note: Nebraska population overall increased 5.6%**

- Population decrease of 5.0% or more (28 counties)
- Population decrease of less than 5.0% (38 counties)
- Population increase of less than 5.0% (18 counties)
- Population increase of 5.0% or more (9 counties)

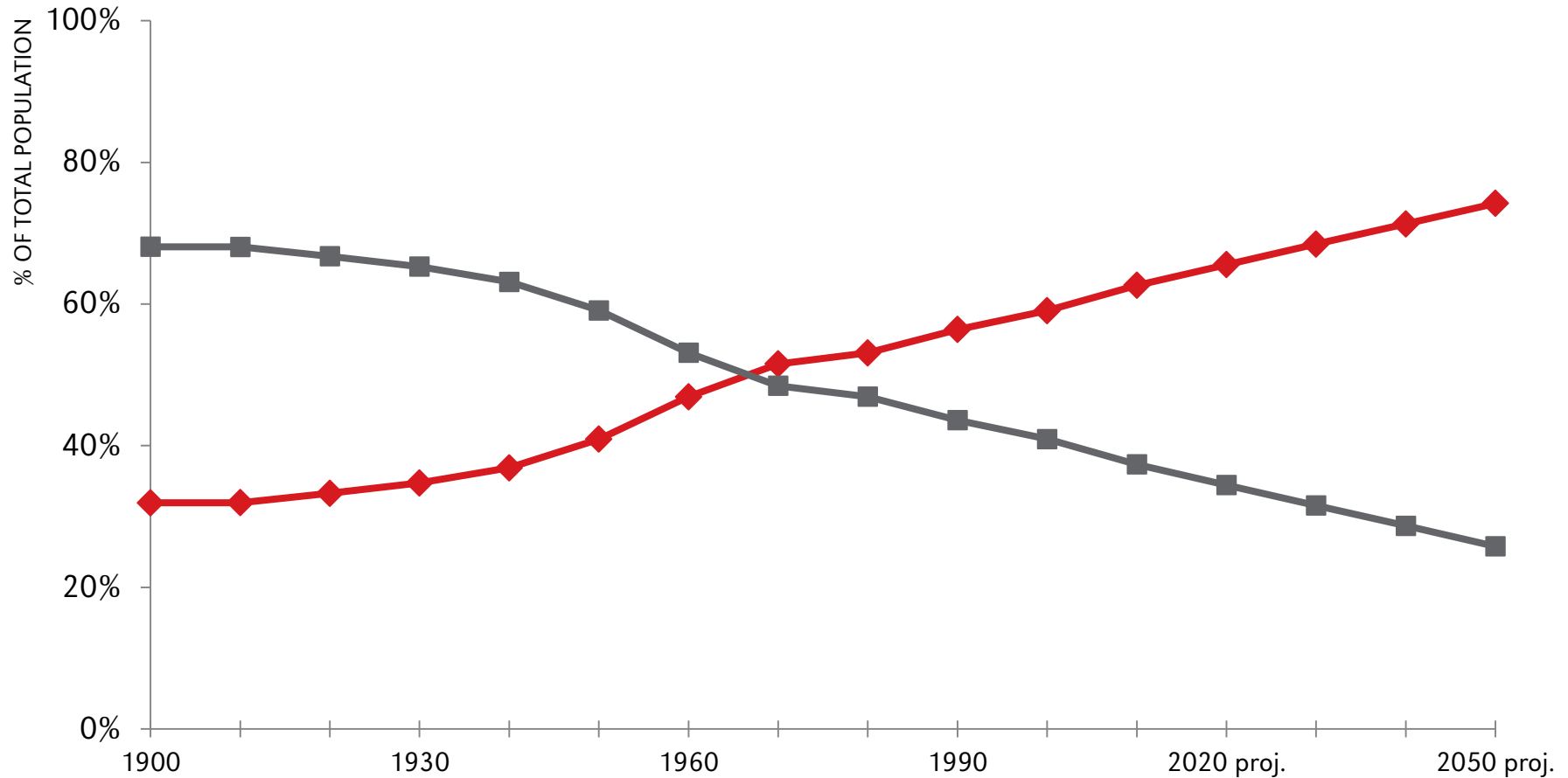
# Nebraska is losing about 2,000 people a year to other states

*Persons age 1 and older by area (no. of counties) 2017*



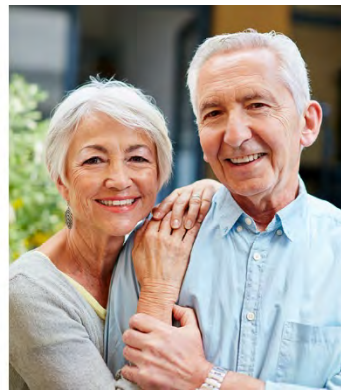
# 65% of Nebraska's population will live in a metro by 2020

◆ Metro counties (12)    ■ Nonmetro counties (81)

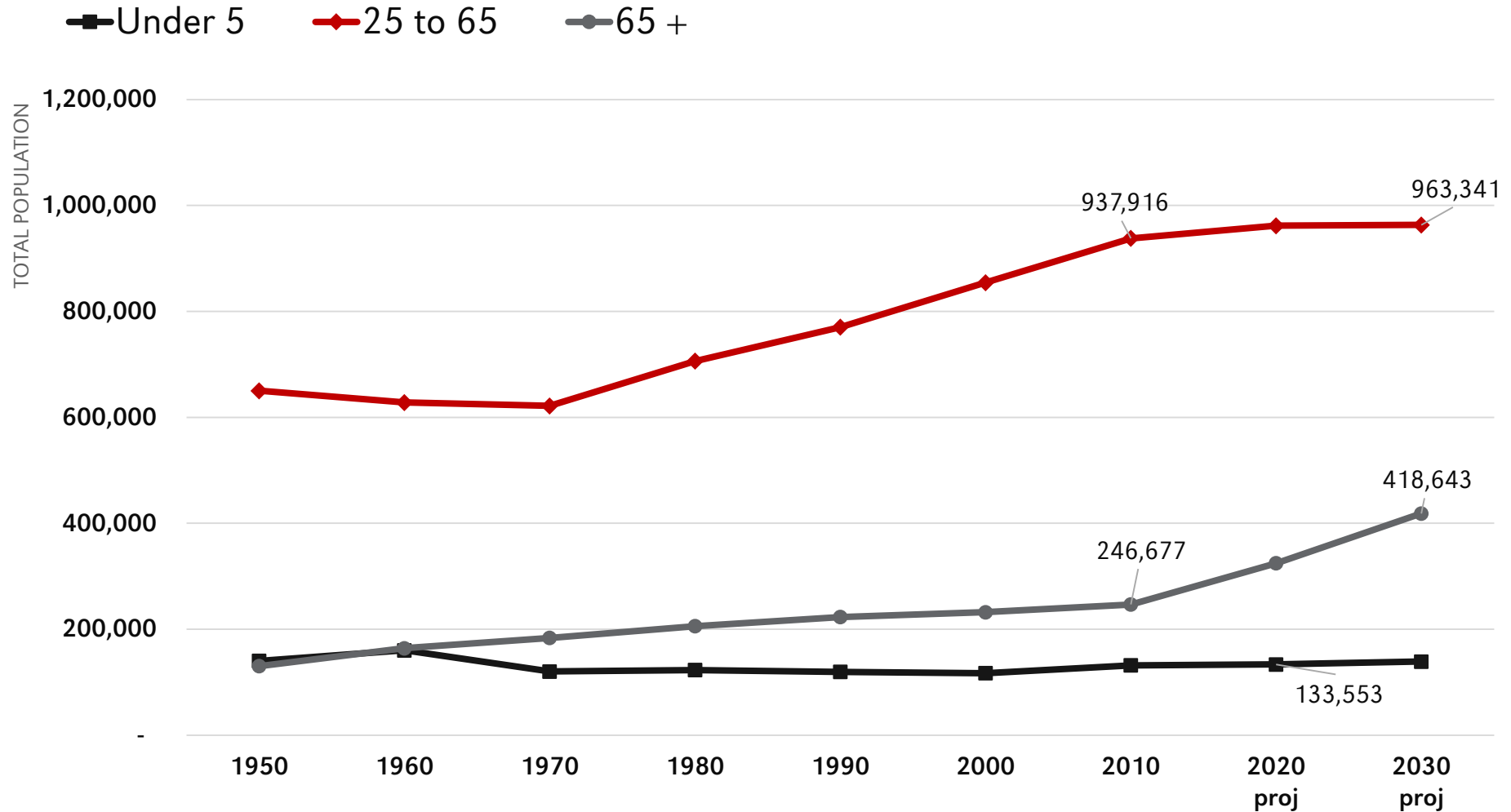




# Aging

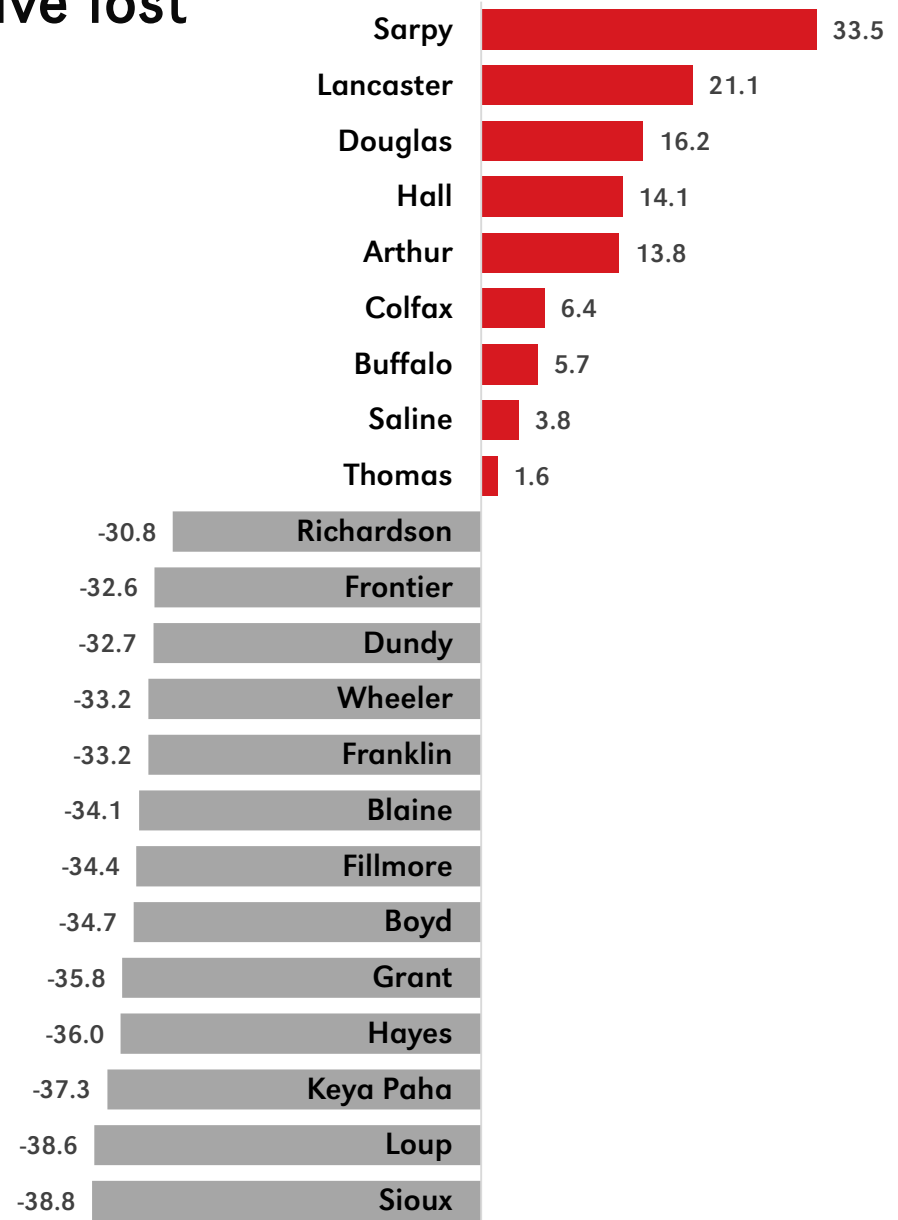


The ratio of working age to aging adults was 6:1 in 1950, 5:1 in 2010 and is expected to be 4:1 by 2030 as the aging adult population increases and the number under age 5 is flat



# Since 2000, all but 9 counties have lost population under age 20

*Percent change in population under 20  
2000- 2017*



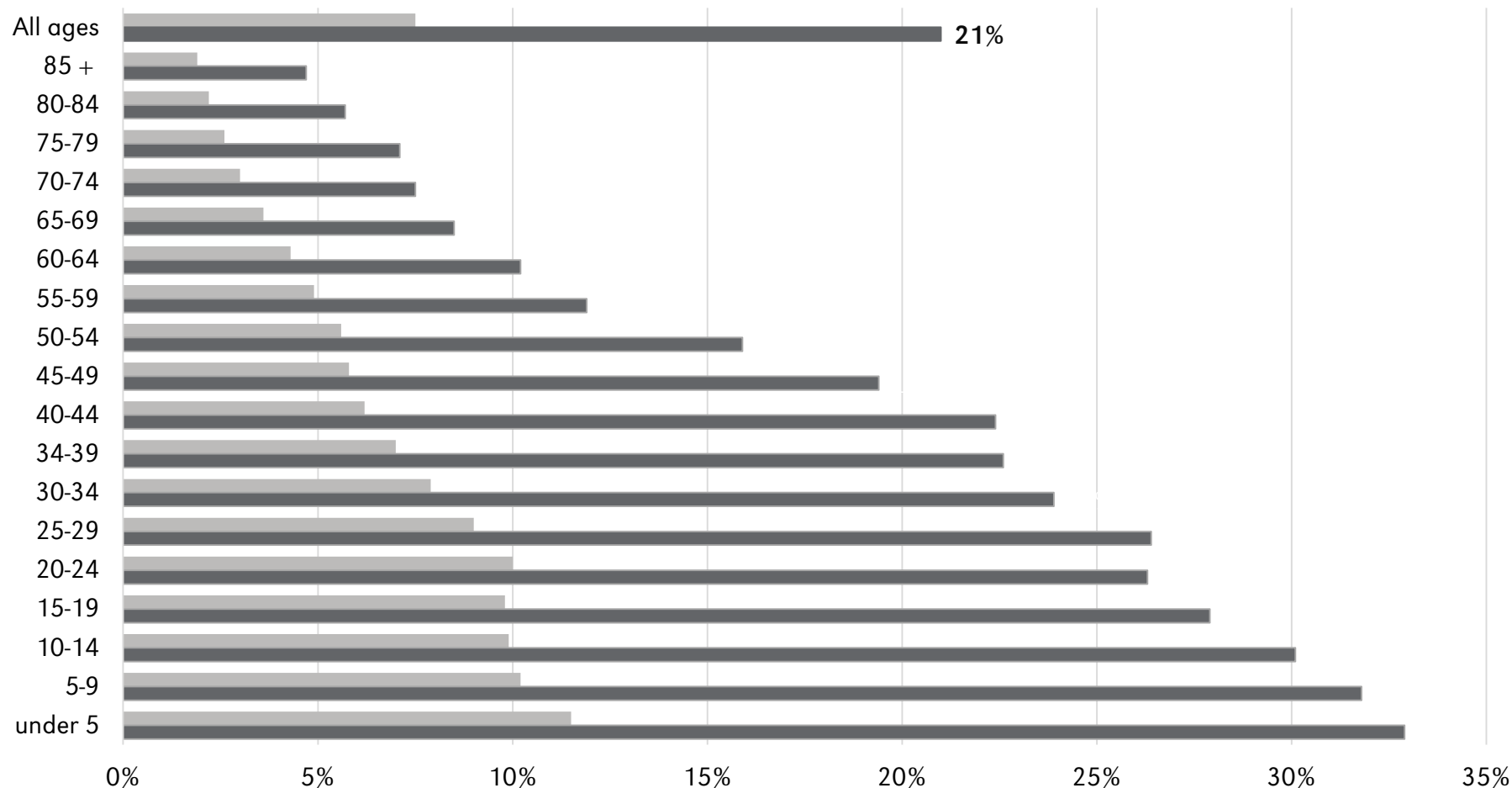
# Increasing Diversity



# 21% of Nebraska's population is minority, up from 8% in 1990

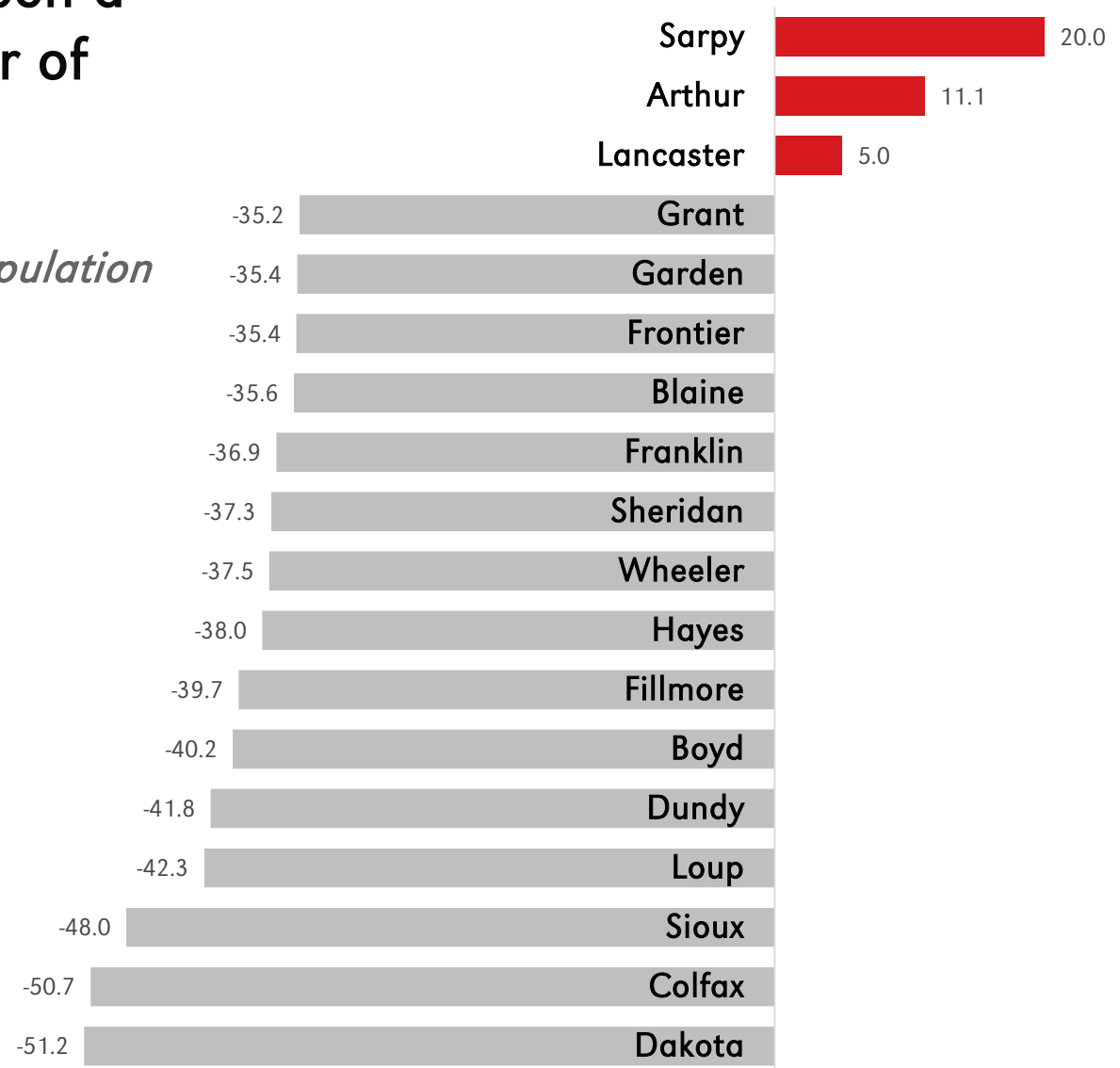
*Minority population as % of total population by age groups*

■ 1990 ■ 2017



# Since 2000, in all but 3 counties there has been a decline in the number of White, non-Hispanic population under 20

*Percent change in White population under 20, 2000- 2017*



# Education

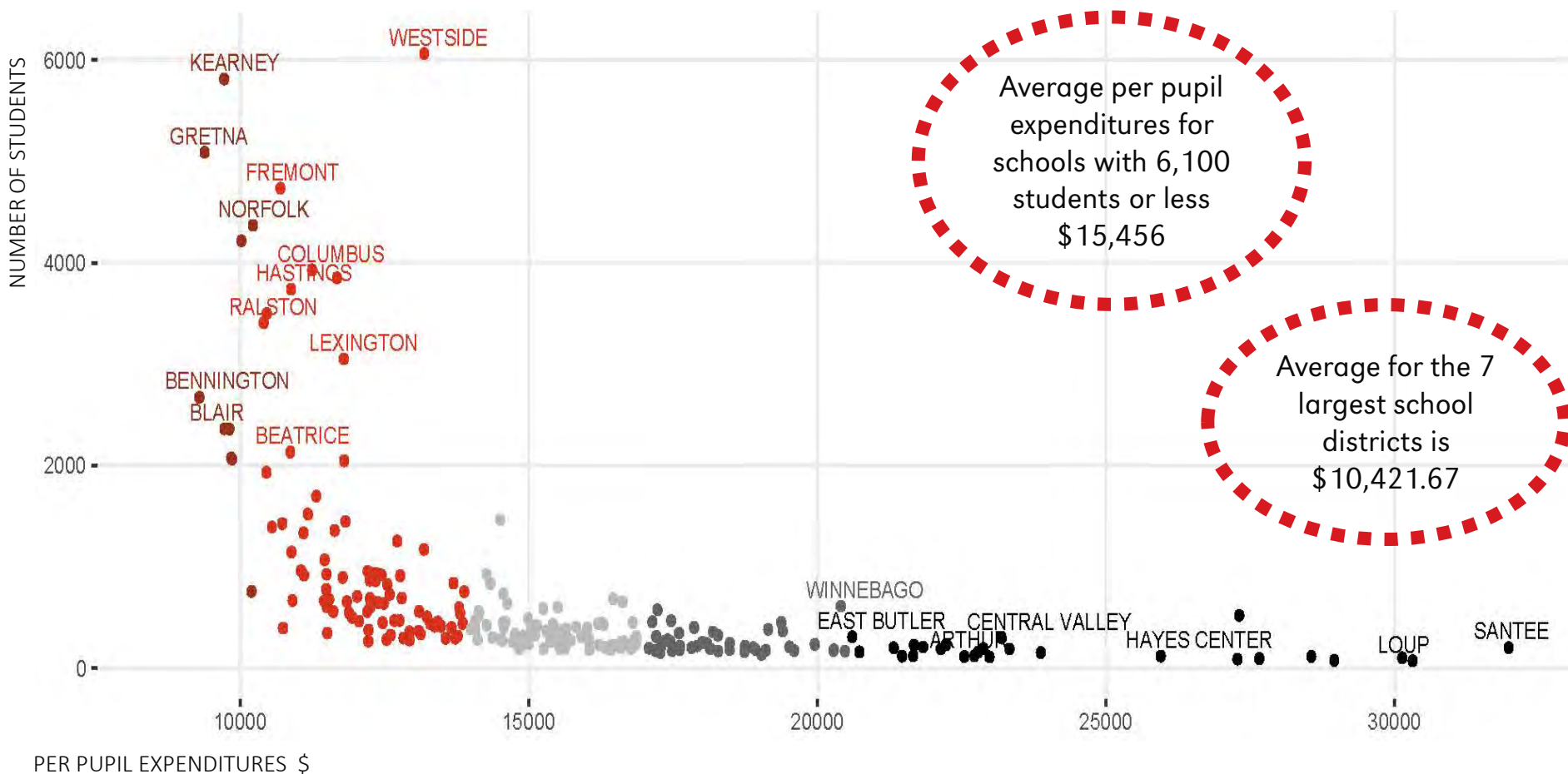




# Smaller school districts have higher spending per student

*School district per pupil spending for Nebraska school districts under 6,100 students*

● < \$10,355   ● \$10,356 – \$13,910   ● \$13,911 – \$17,001   ● \$17,002 – \$20,556   ● > \$20,557

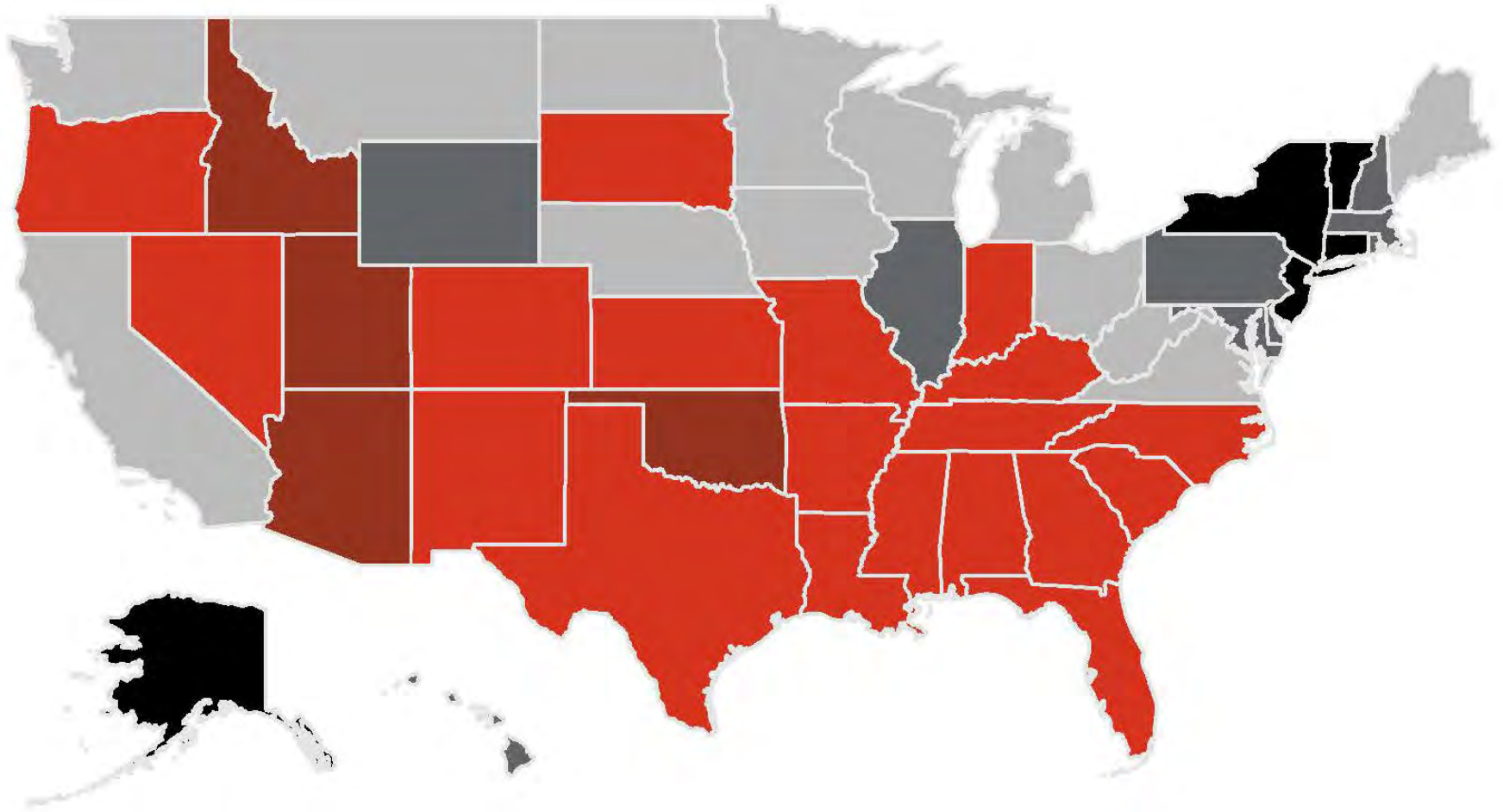




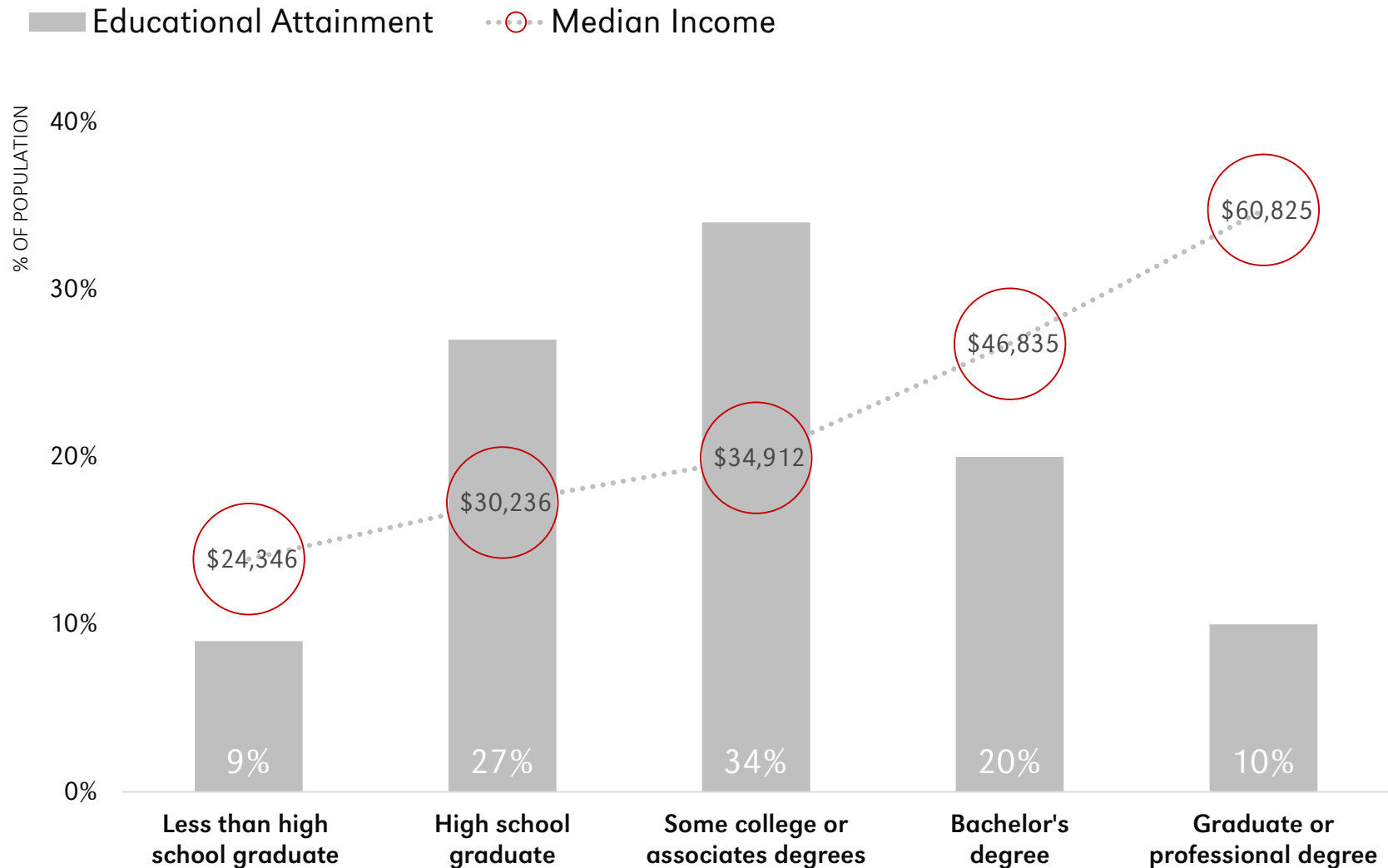
# Nebraska's per pupil spending of \$12,578 is near the national average of \$12,520

*2017 average per pupil expenditure calculated by U.S. Census Bureau*

● \$7,178 - \$8,388   ● \$8,389 - \$11,268   ● \$11,269 - \$13,772   ● \$13,773 - \$16,652   ● \$16,653 - \$23,090



# 64% of Nebraskans have some higher education and higher education leads to higher income



# Workforce



**693,857**  
persons over 16 that are  
employed full-time year-round

**1,024,737**  
persons 16 years and older  
in the labor force

**70%**  
labor force  
participation

**Labor force participation rate by race, ethnicity, and gender**

Latino — 75%

Black — 68%

White — 70%

Asian — 66%

American Indian & Alaska Native — 64%



age 20-64  
Male 88%

Female 80%

## State Rankings

**#1**

Labor force  
participation of single  
mothers with kids  
under six – **81%**

**#2**

for age 25-64 with a bachelor's degree+ in the labor force – **90%**

in % of married-couple families with  
both spouses in the labor force – **61%**

for share of families in poverty that have a householder or spouse  
who worked "full time and year round" – **29%**

for age 55-64 labor force participation – **74%**

**#4**

for age 65+ labor force  
participation – **22%**

for portion of workers that have  
more than one job – **8%**

**#3**

for age 16-19 labor  
force participation –  
**53%**

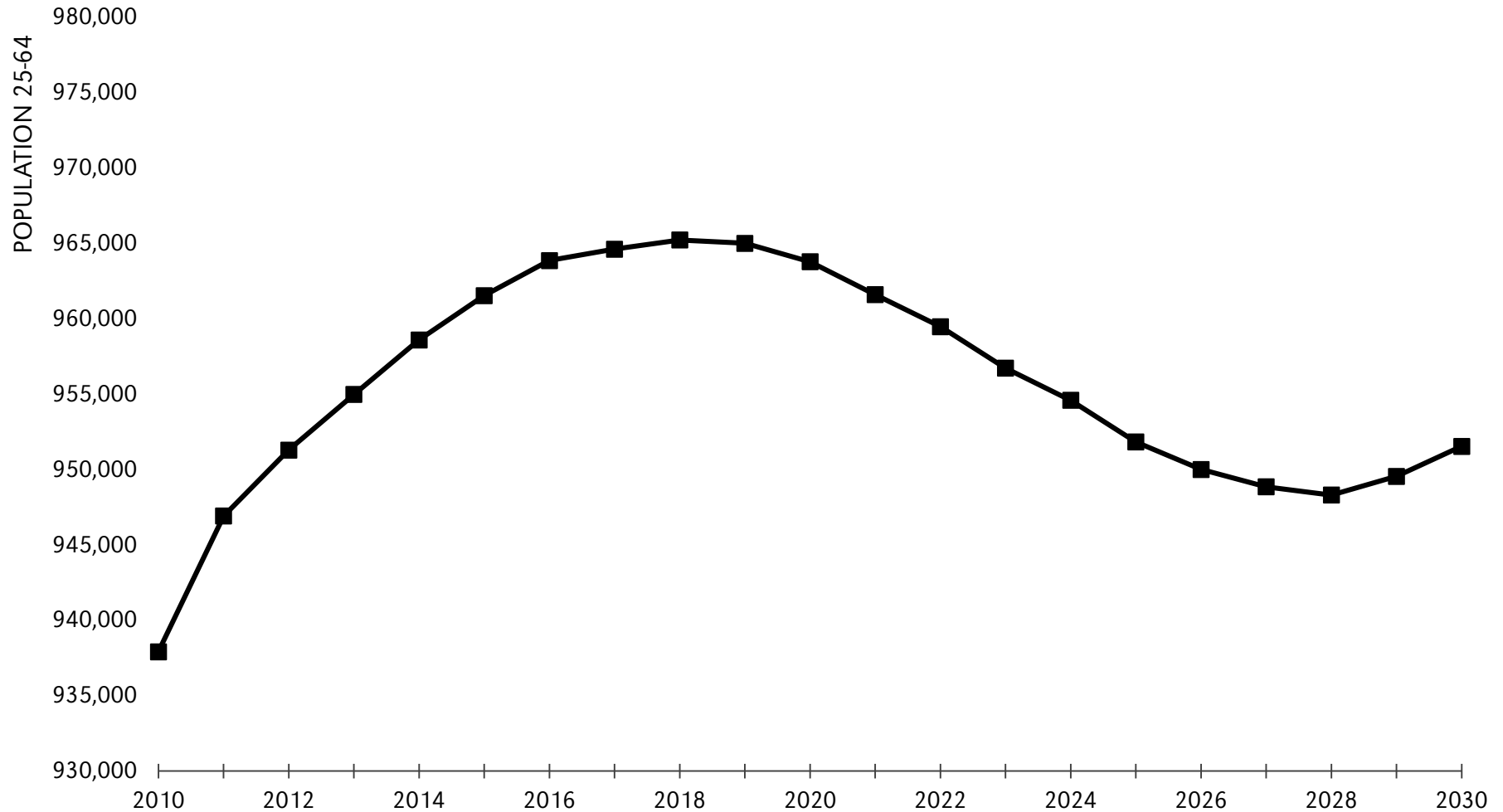
**#5**

for kids under six with all parents  
in the labor force – **72%**

**#9 2.9% Unemployment as of April 2019**

# The prime age workforce is peaking and will decline for the next 10 years

*Nebraska projected age 25-64 population 2010 to 2030*



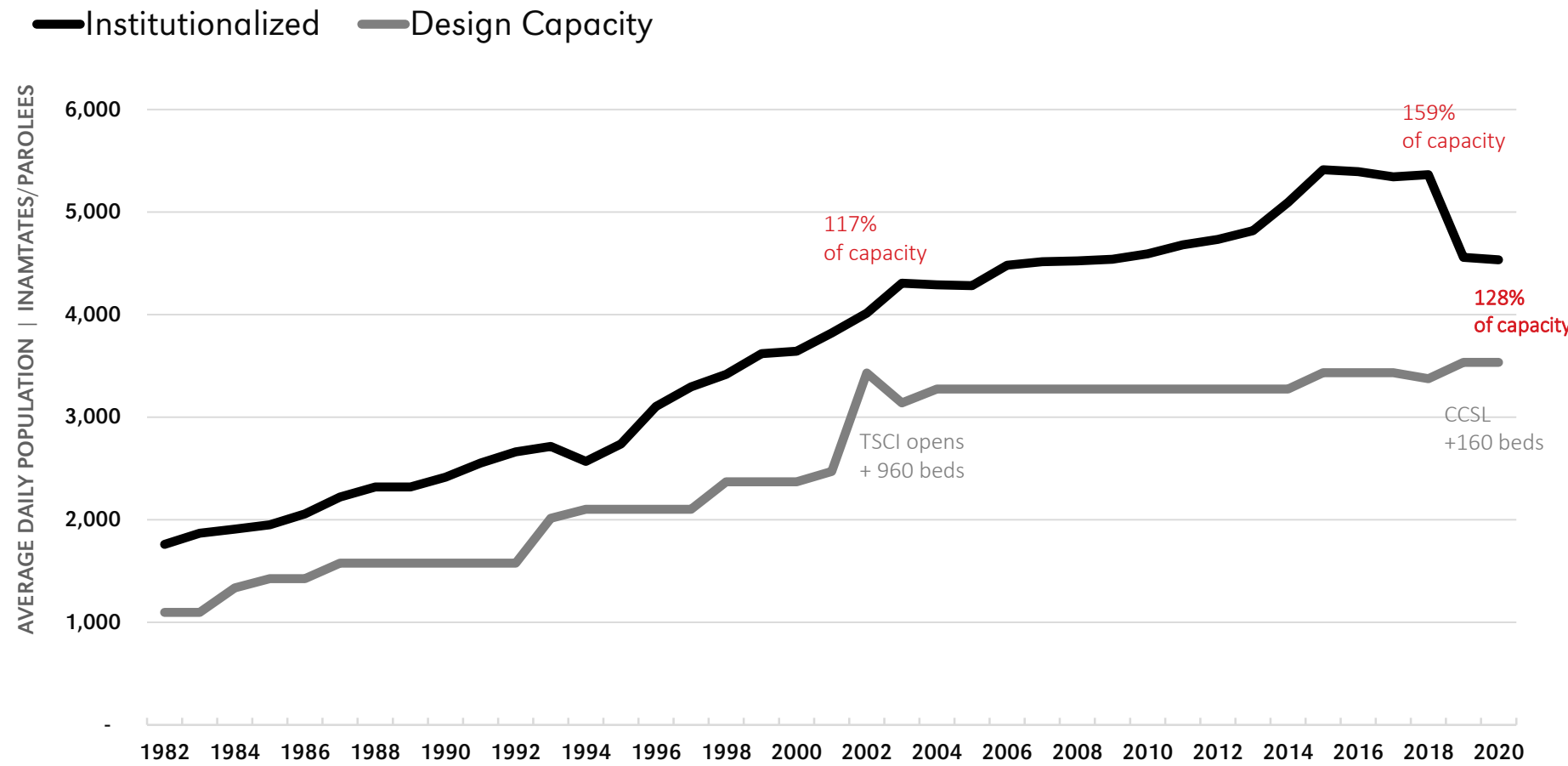


# Public Safety



# Since 1982, the number of inmates housed in Nebraska facilities has increased 200%

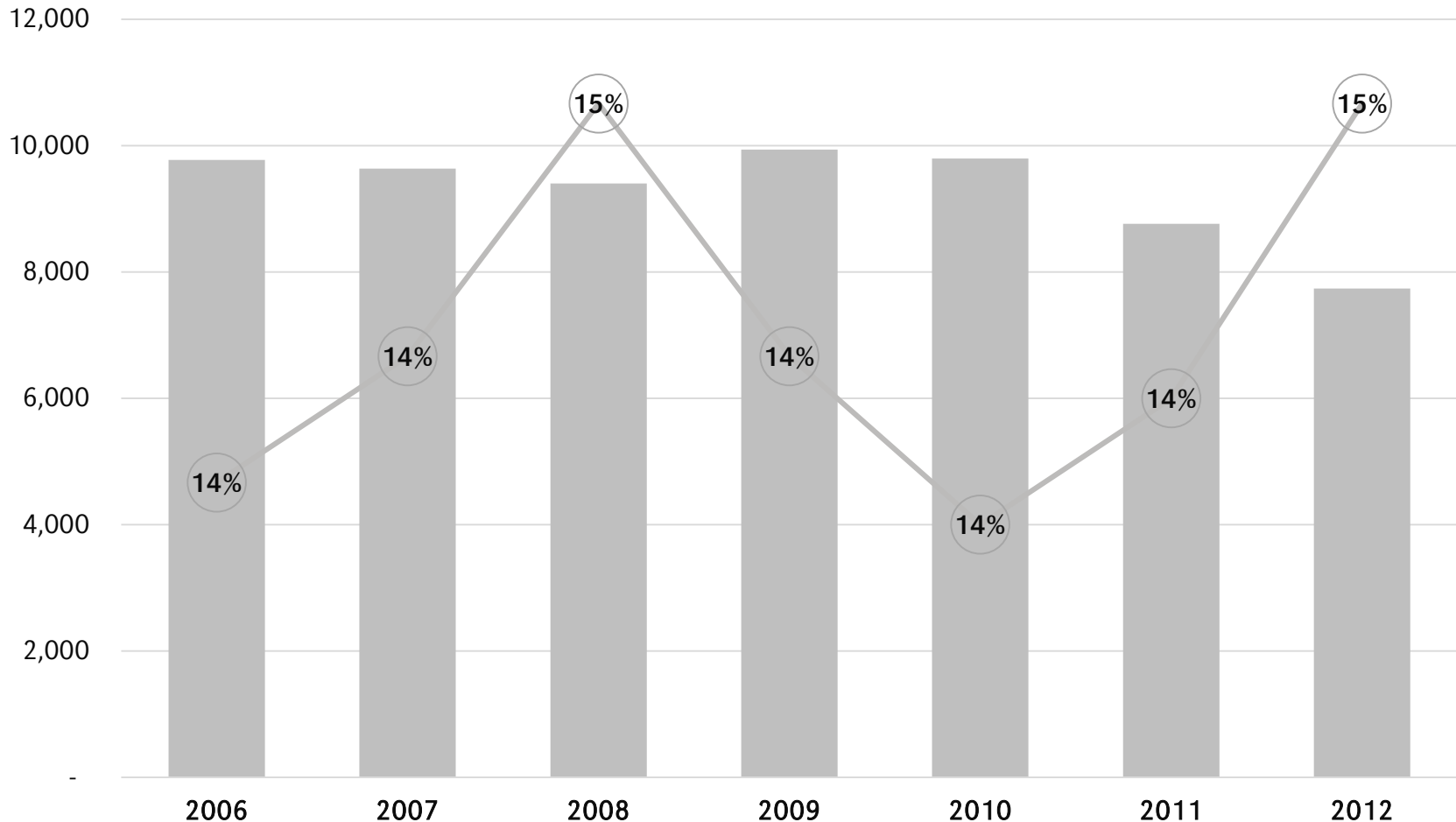
*Nebraska Department of Corrections average daily population and design capacity fiscal year 1982 – 2020 / 2019 and 2020 are projections*



# On average, only 14% of probationers reoffend within three years of release

*Yearly number of probationers and recidivism rate within three years of discharge*

■ Number of Probationers    ○ Percent Recidivating





# 2020 VISION

IT'S YOUR FUTURE

— 2020 DECENNIAL CENSUS IN NEBRASKA —

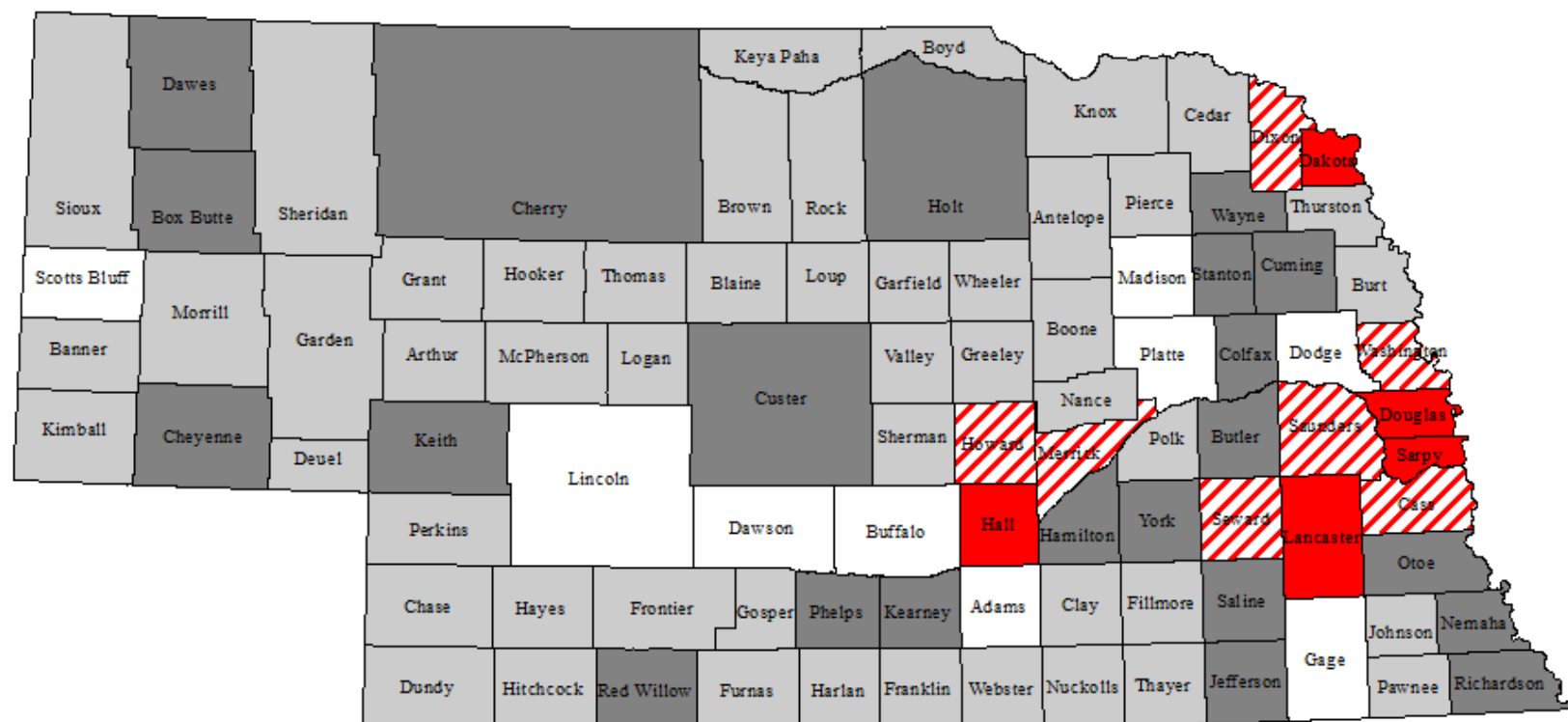
**Over \$2,000 is lost  
for every person not  
counted**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha



# Nebraska Counties Classified by Metropolitan, Micropolitan, and Rural Status



## Nebraska County Classification

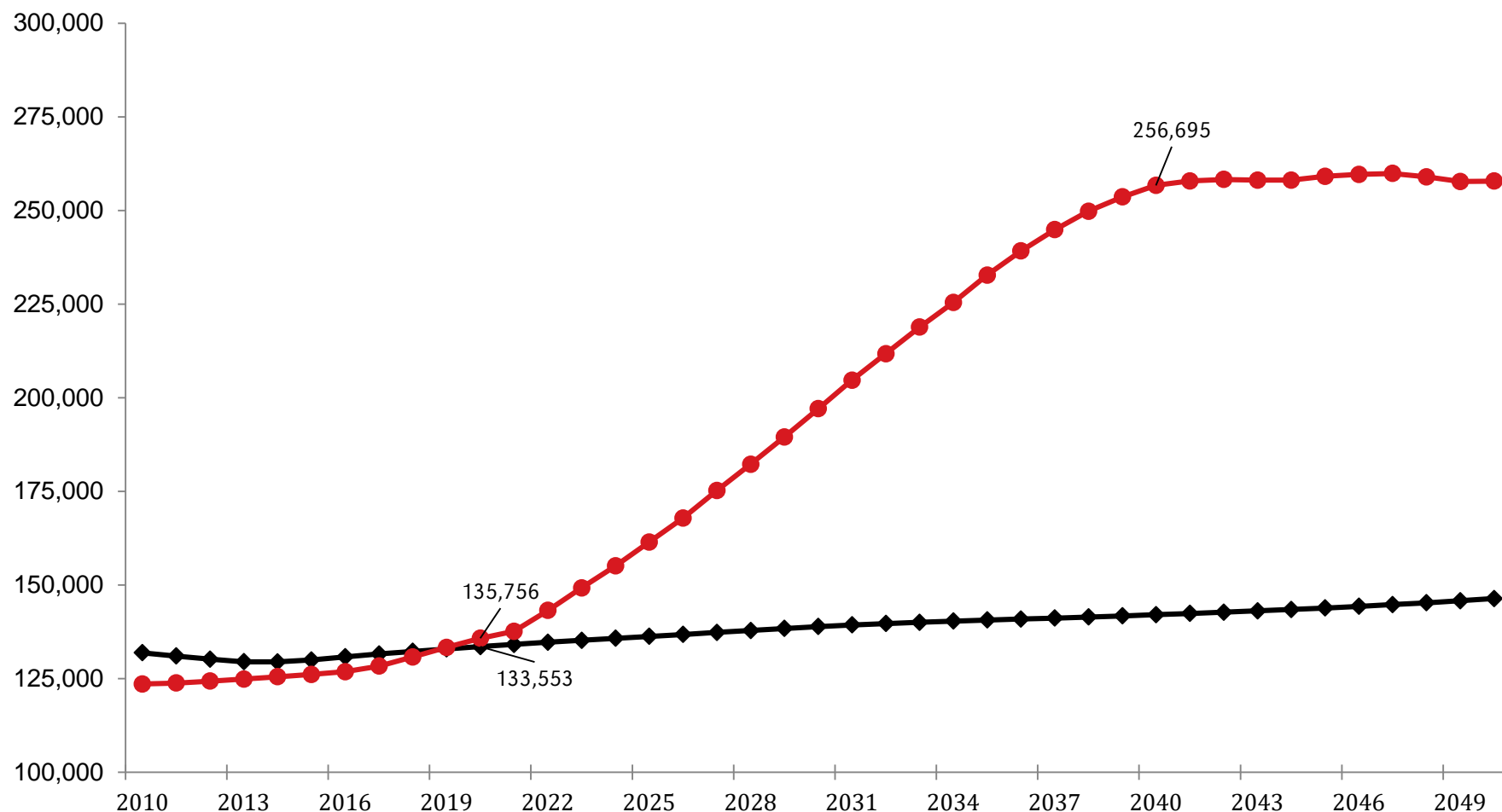
- Core metropolitan (5) - contains or uniquely tied to a city of 50,000 or more residents
- Outlying metropolitan (7) - strong commuting ties to a core metro
- Micropolitan core (9) - nonmetropolitan containing a city of 10,000 - 49,999 residents
- Rural with urban cluster (22) - nonmetropolitan containing a city of 2,500 - 9,999 residents
- 100% rural (50) - no city or largest city population of less than 2,500 residents



# In 2019 the population of 75+ surpassed the population under age 5

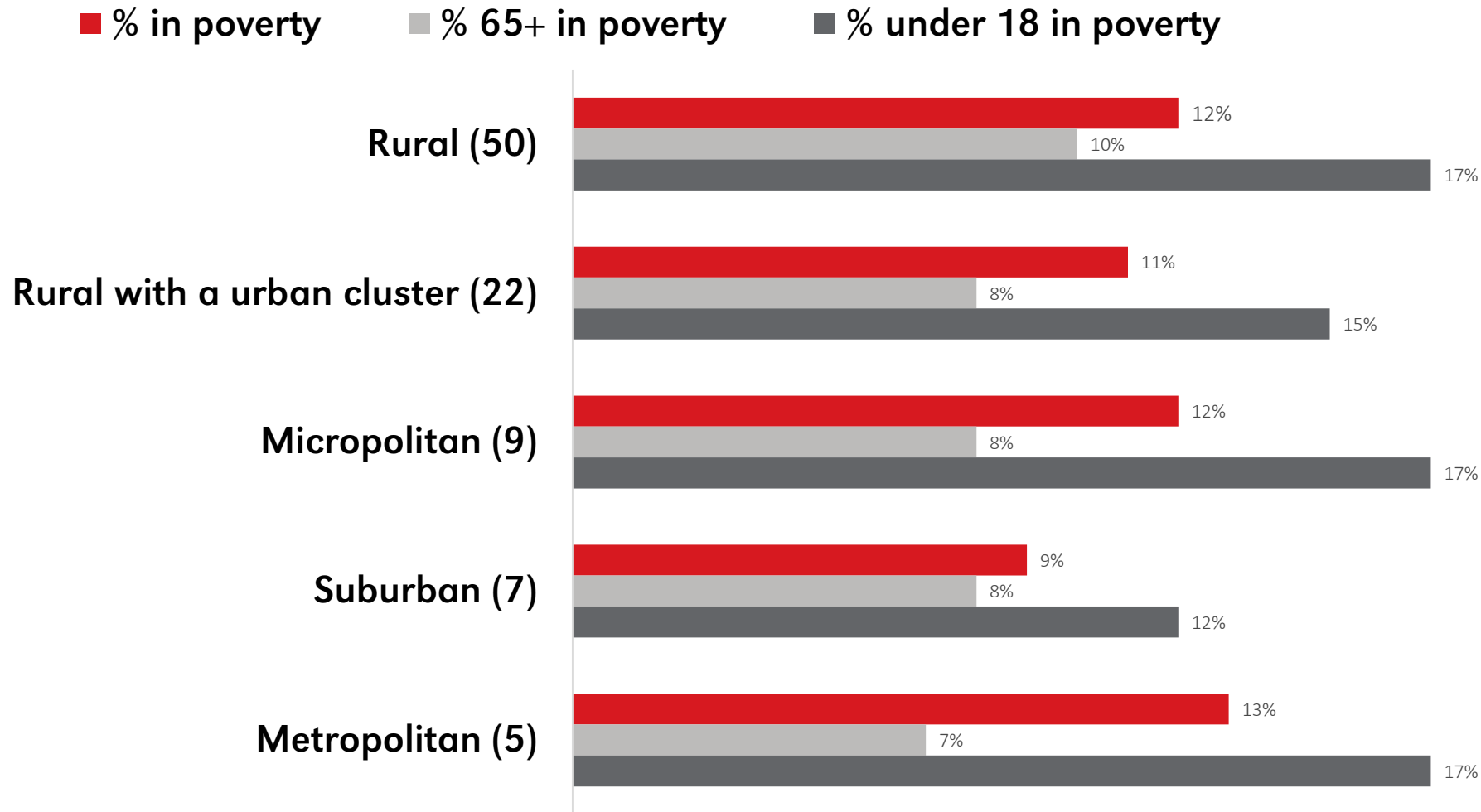
*Projection of Nebraska population for select age groups 2010 - 2050*

◆ Population under age 5    ● Population age 75+



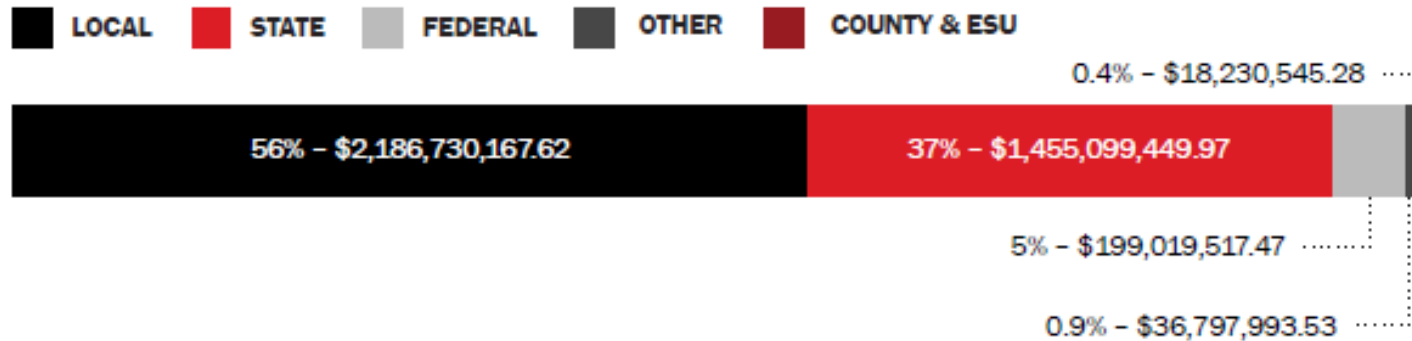
# Rural counties have the highest percentages of persons 65+ in poverty

*Percent of population in poverty by county groups*



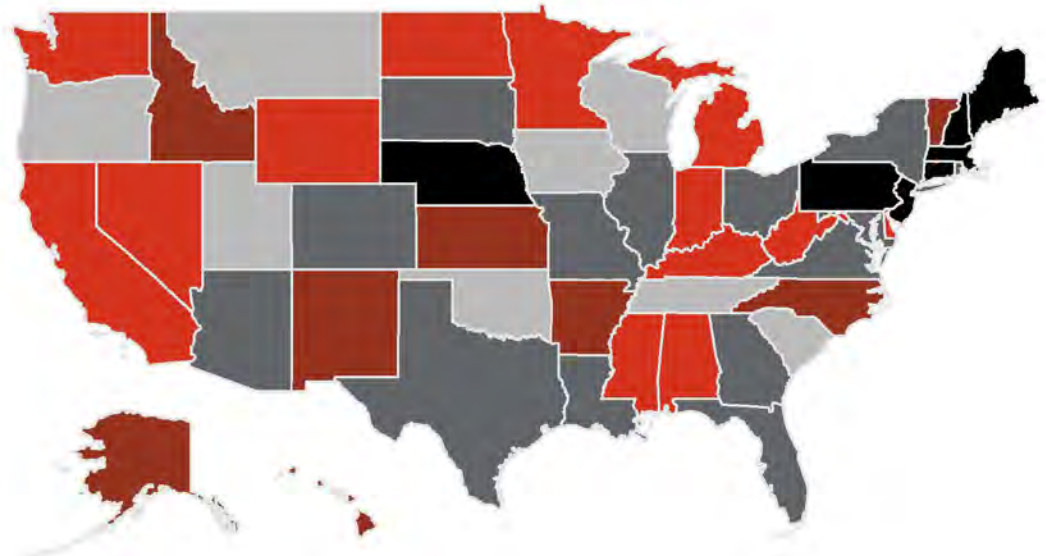
# NEBRASKA'S COMPOSITION OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS <sup>4</sup>

TOTAL: \$3,895,877,673.87



PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL RESOURCES

Legend: < -33% (Dark Red), < -10% (Red), Average (Light Gray), > 10% (Dark Gray), > 33% (Black)



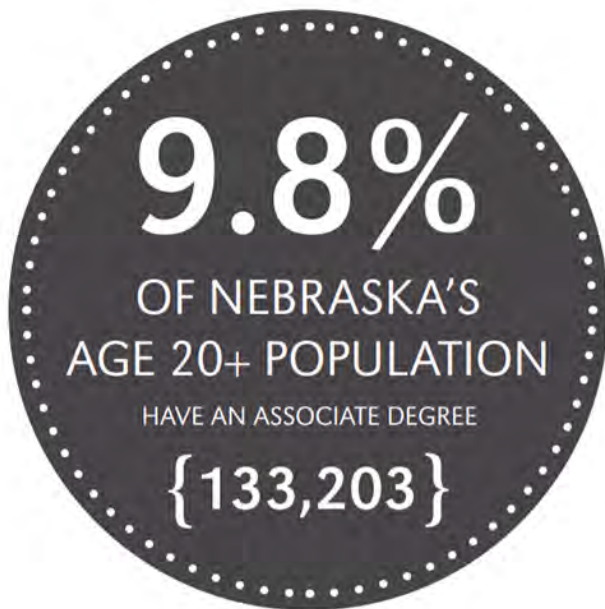
# ONLY 7 OF NEBRASKA'S 244 SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE OVER 6,100 STUDENTS AND THEIR SPENDING PER STUDENT IS SOME OF THE LOWEST IN THE STATE <sup>1</sup>

SCHOOL DISTRICT	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	SPENDING PER STUDENT
ELKHORN PUBLIC	9,347	\$9,297.40
BELLEVUE PUBLIC	9,801	\$10,676.57
GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC	9,897	\$10,457.98
PAPILLION LA VISTA COMMUNITY	12,018	\$9,644.89
MILLARD PUBLIC	24,018	\$9,453.31
LINCOLN PUBLIC	41,737	\$10,777.20
OMAHA PUBLIC	52,836	\$12,644.60

Larger school districts have higher teacher to student ratio

*2017/18 average teacher to student ratio by school district size*

69 – 593 students		599 – 6,060 students		Over 6,100	
Elementary	Secondary	Elementary	Secondary	Elementary	Secondary
11.56	8.61	11.57	8.61	14.26	15.30



**Distribution of age 20+ population  
with an associate degree by race,  
ethnicity, and gender**

White	90.2%
Latino	4.1%
Black	3.1%
Asian	1.0%
Other	1.0%
American Indian	0.6%



**Female**  
52.2%

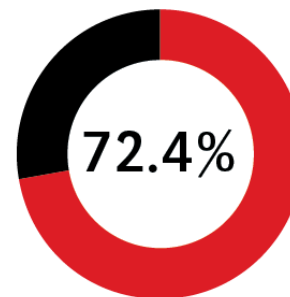


**Male**  
47.8%

**7.3%**  
POVERTY  
RATE



**\$40,894**  
MEDIAN EARNINGS OF  
FULL-TIME WORKERS

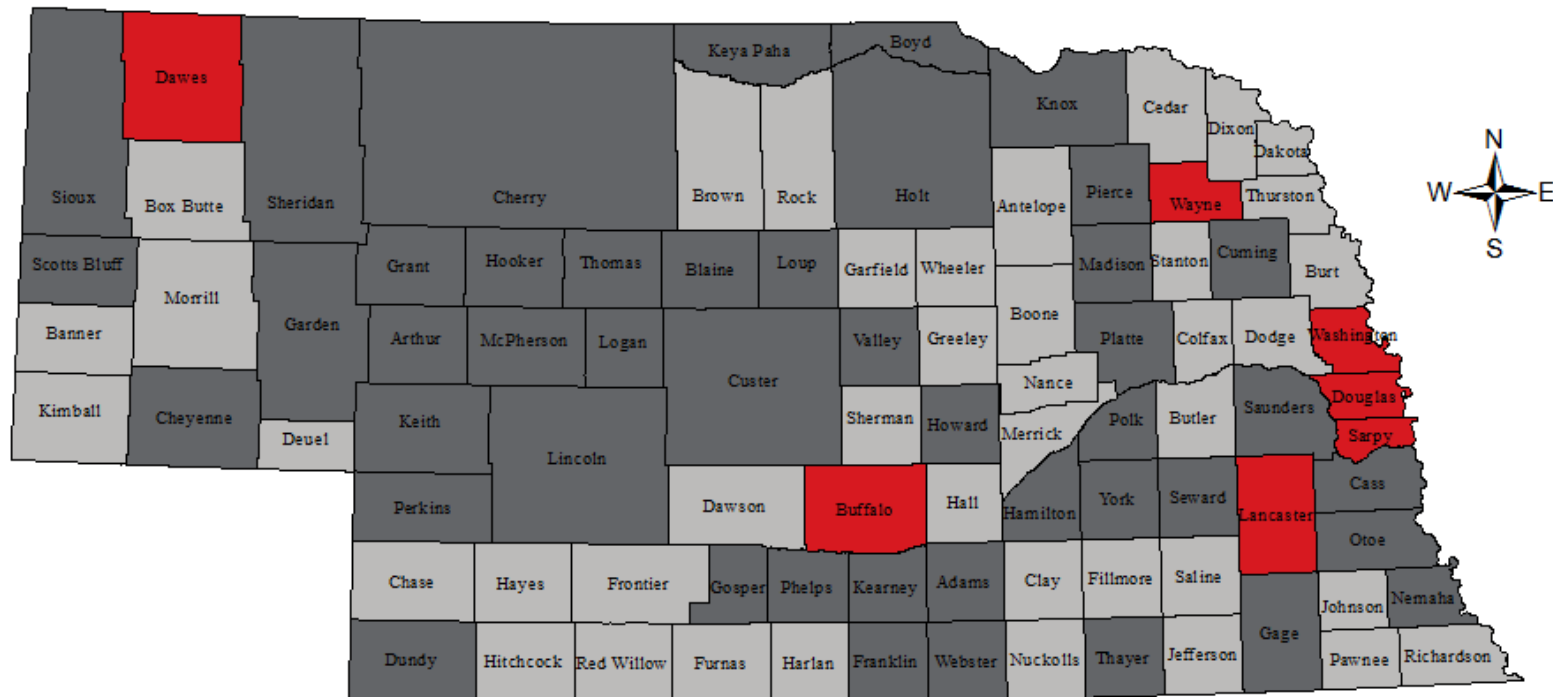


IN OWNER-  
OCCUPIED  
HOUSEHOLDS



# In only 7 counties, there are over 30.6% of persons with a Bachelor's degree

*Percent of population 25 years and older with a Bachelor's Degree or higher education*



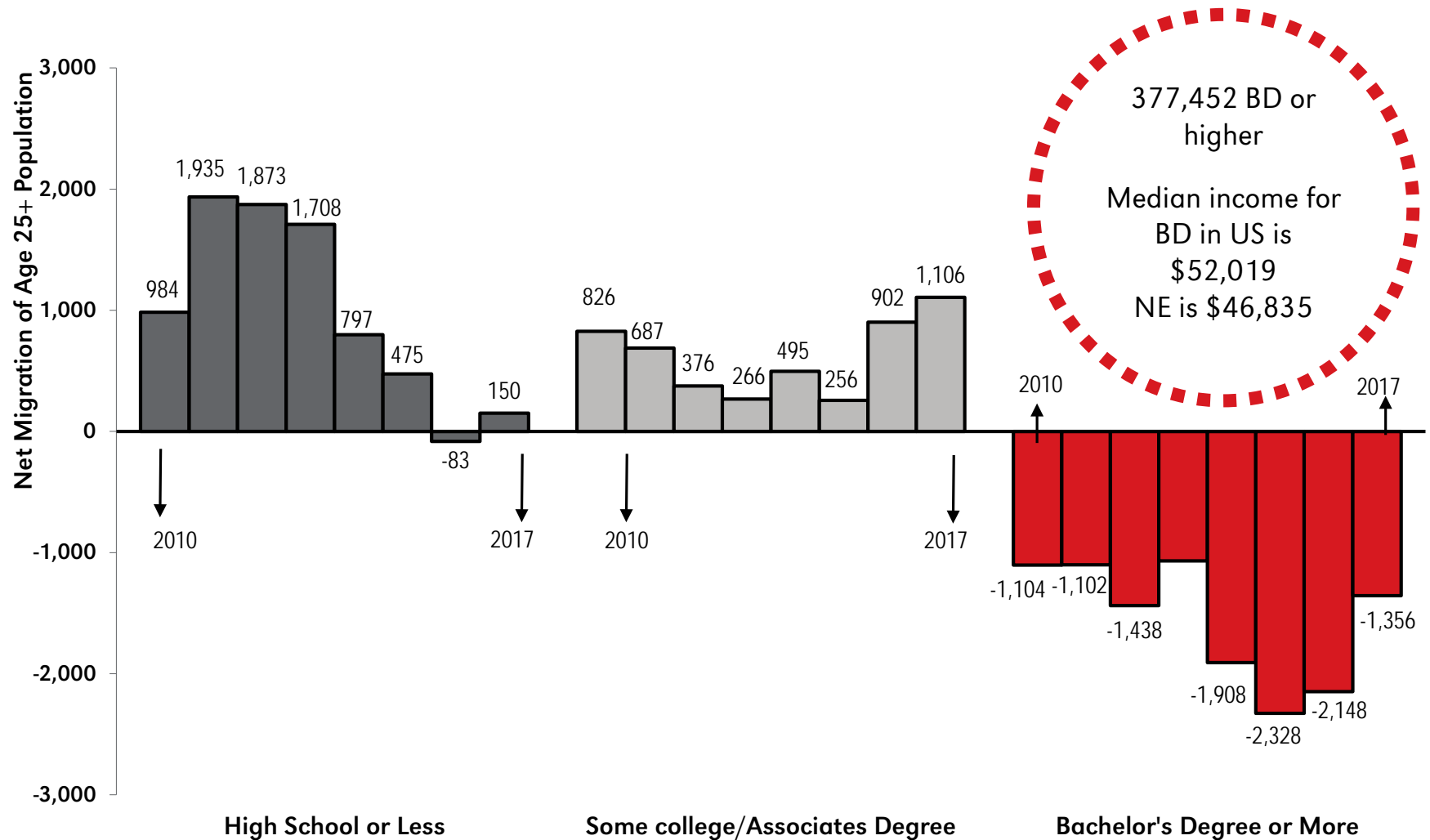
**Percent age 25 or older with a Bachelor's Degree or more education**

**Note: Nebraska = 30.6%**

- Less than 20.0% (41 counties)
- 20.0 to 30.5% (45 counties)
- At or above state average of 30.6% (7 counties)

# Nebraska's brain drain continues versus a net immigration of those with less education

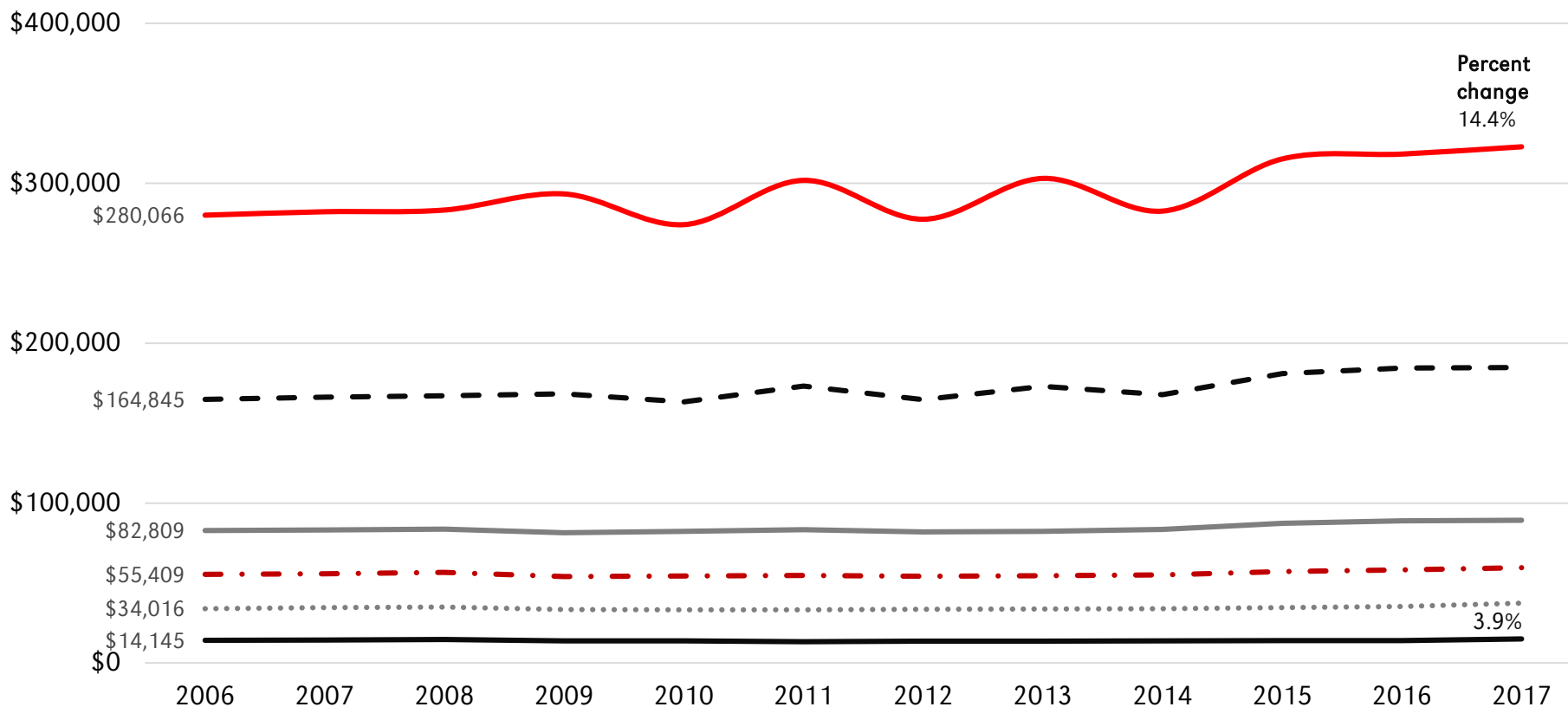
*Net domestic migration of age 25+ population by education, 2010 to 2017*



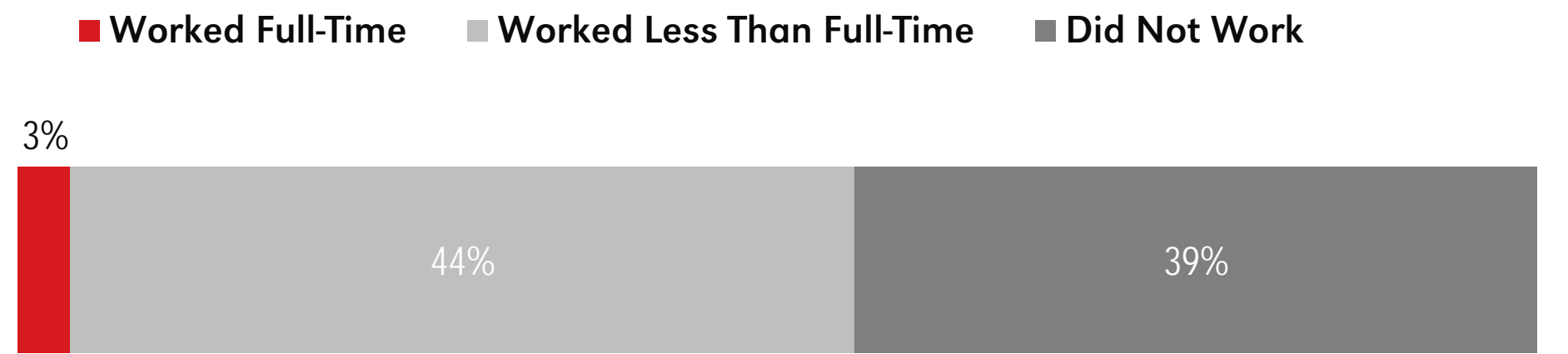
# On average, Nebraskans' incomes have increased about **8%** since 2006 ranking 7<sup>th</sup> best in the country

*Inflation adjusted mean household income. About 145,000 households per quintile, 37,000 in the top 5%*

— Lowest Quintile    ..... Second Quintile    - . - Third Quintile    — Fourth Quintile    - - - Highest Quintile    — Top 5 Percent

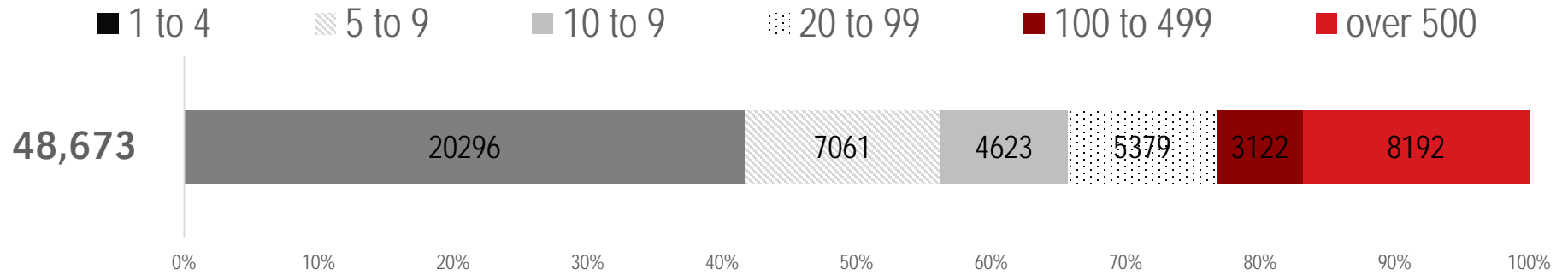


Of the 12% of the population that is in poverty, **47%** work full or part-time  
*Percent of population 16 and over that are in poverty by employment status over the past 12 months*

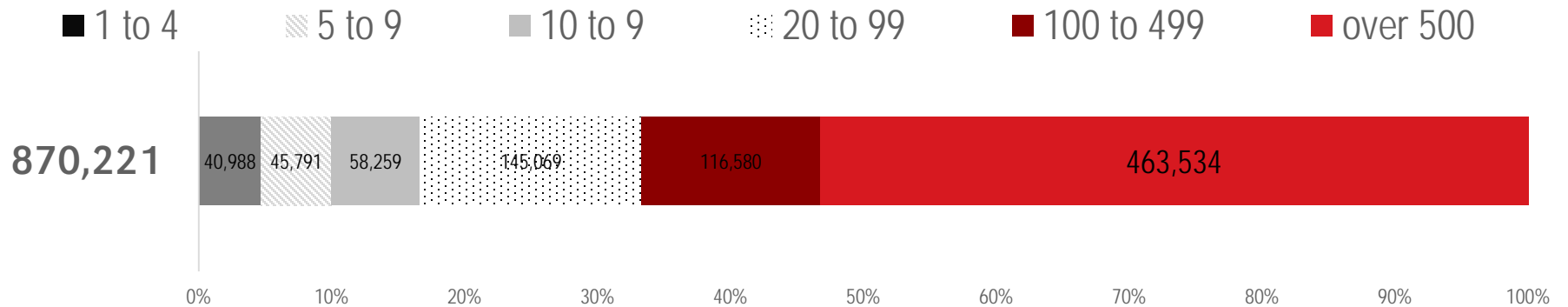


23% of those in poverty, 25 or older, have less than a high school degree

# Total number of enterprise establishments by NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES | 2016

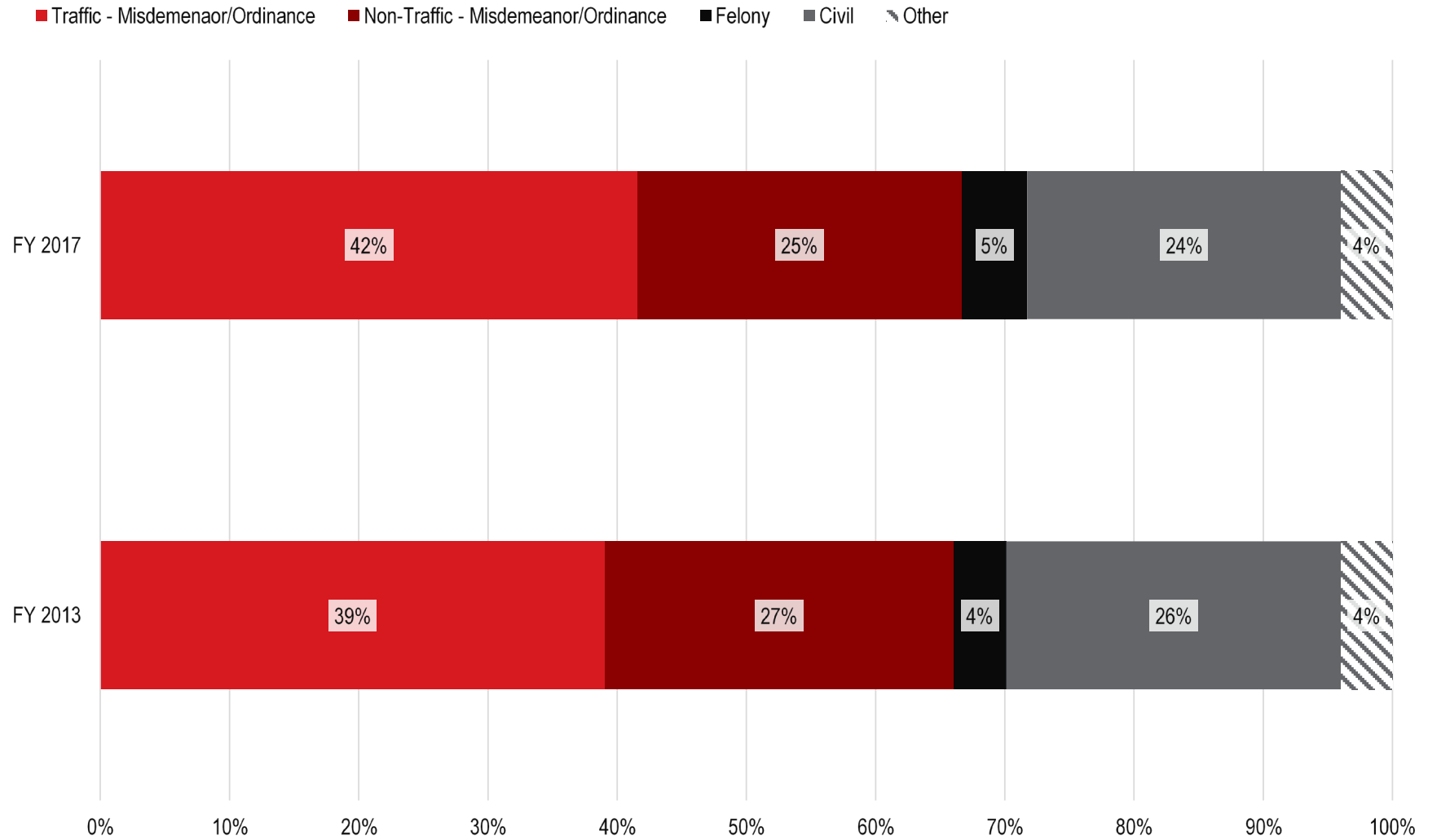


# Total number of employees by size | 2016



Misdemeanors and civil cases account for the largest amount of statewide county court caseloads

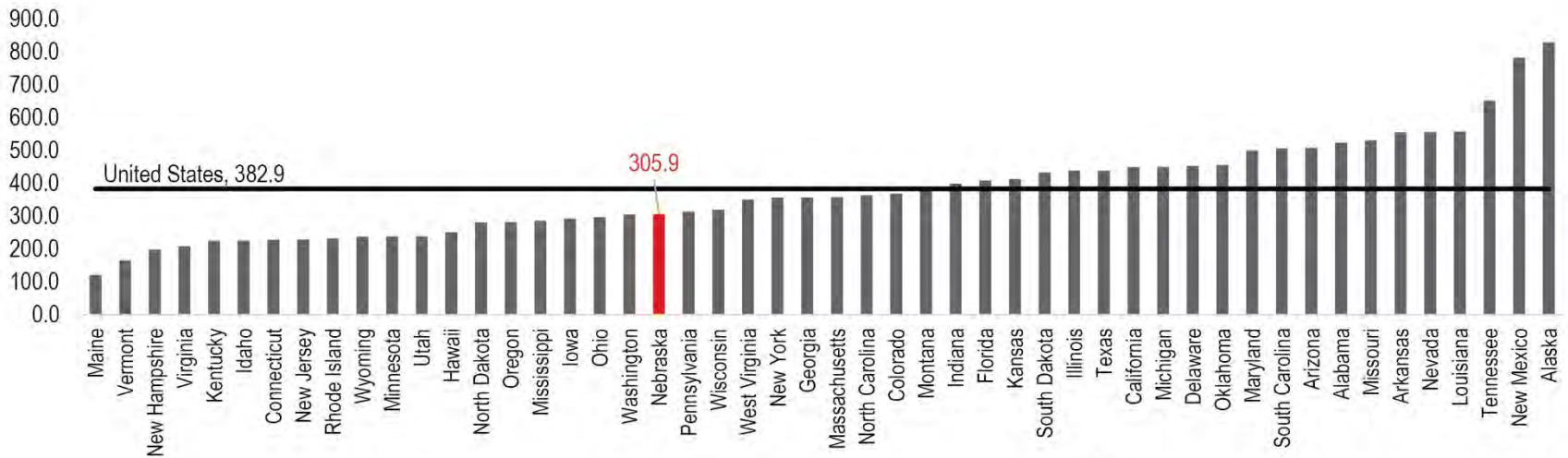
*Breakdown of Nebraska County Court Caseloads by Year*



Source: County Court Annual Caseload Reports, Nebraska Judicial Branch

## 2017 Violent Offense Rate by State

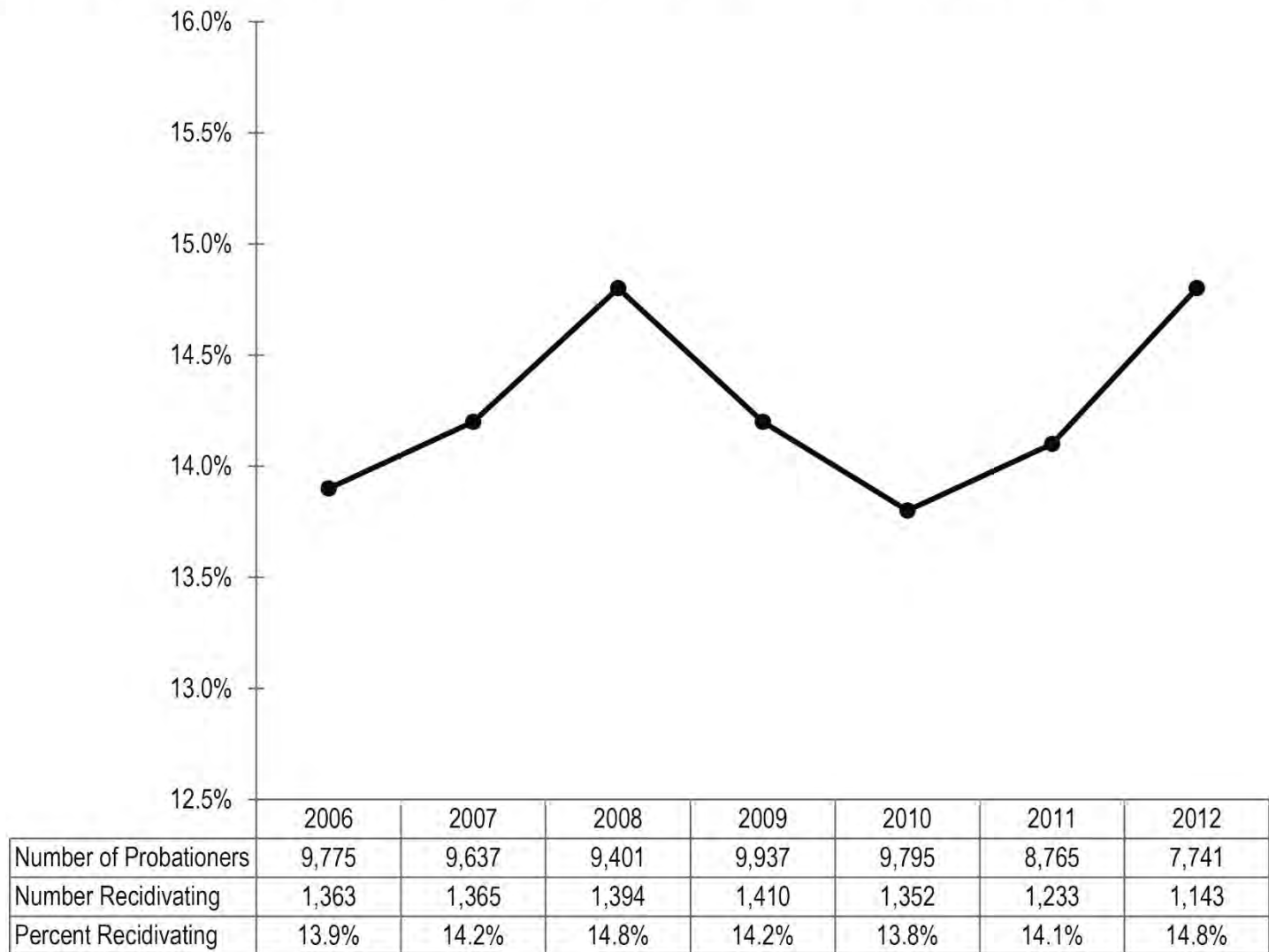
*The violent offense rate per 100,000 people in Nebraska is lower than the national average*



Source: 2017 Crime in the United States, Uniform Crime Report

## Yearly Rate of Recidivism among Discharged Probationers

*On average, only 14% of probationers reoffend within three years of release*



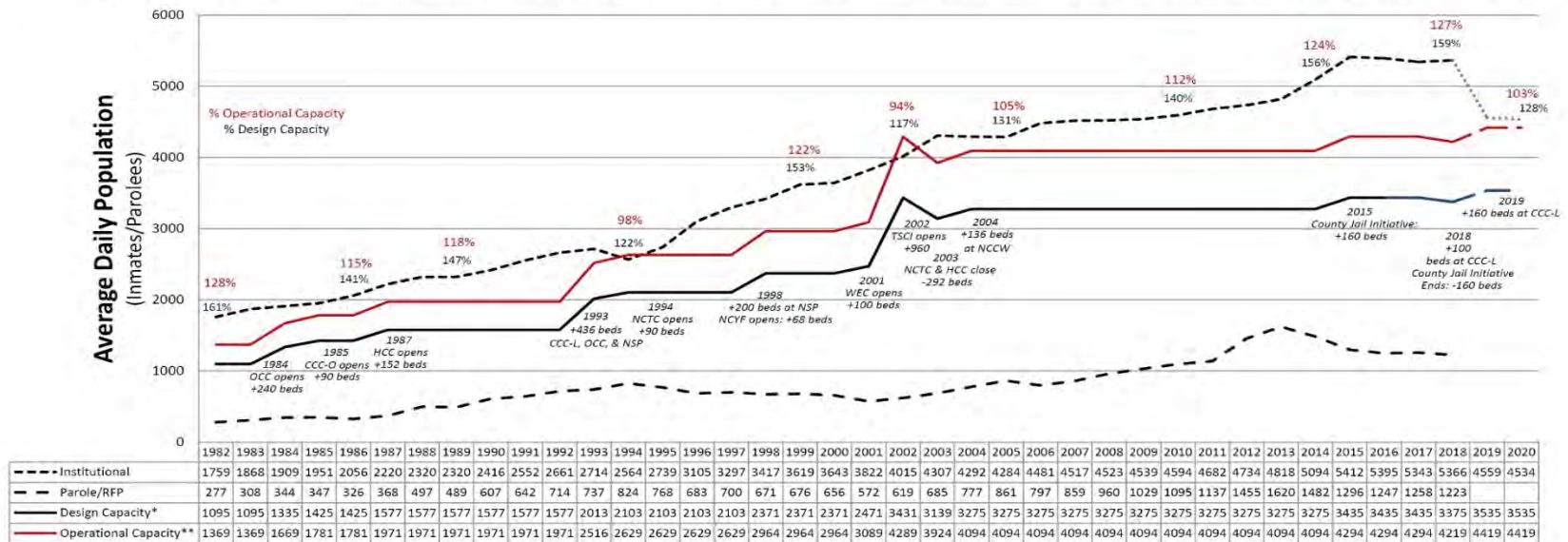
Notes: Most recent data available

Source: Richard L. Wiener, PhD, Recidivism Rates for Adult Probationers: 2006 to 2012



# Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Capacity and Average Daily Population, FY 1982-FY 2020

Since 1982, the number of inmates housed in Nebraska facilities has increased by over 200%



<sup>1</sup> Institutional ADP includes NDCS inmates housed in contracted county jails. Institutional projections after FY2018 use CSG population estimates (December 2014).

\* Design Capacity includes 100 beds at the Work Ethic Camp in McCook, NE. Capacity projections account for the discontinuation of the county jail initiative and expanded capacity at CCC-L.

\*\* Operational Capacity reflects the number of inmates that can be housed in a facility and sustained indefinitely, given current conditions, including core infrastructure and programming space.

Source: Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Location History Records  
Prepared by: Abby L. Carbaugh, Ph.D., Nebraska Department of Correctional Services